



ORIGINAL

Docket No 00 258

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Grayson County College

Dr. Alan Scheibmeir

6101 Grayson Drive

Denison, Texas 75020

(903) 463-8600 Fax (903) 463-5284

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

March 7, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

I have recently been made aware of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) intent to provide expanded bands of spectrum for the next generation of cellular phones. This expansion includes a band of spectrum currently occupied by the instructional television fixed service (ITFS). As the President of a community college that is an ITFS licensee, I urge you to reconsider this concept.

Community colleges have been using this spectrum to deliver video distance learning for 40 years. More recently, many community colleges have begun utilizing the spectrum to deliver wireless, broadband Internet connections to its students and communities. Internet delivery of instruction is one of the fastest growing methods of providing higher education to a more diversified population. At Grayson County College student use of Internet delivered instruction has grown significantly, approximately 50%, in the last year alone. Should the FCC transfer the ITFS spectrum to advanced cellular services, and force ITFS licensees to another band of spectrum, the delivery of distance learning would be severely impaired. As I understand, the FCC has identified several bands of spectrum that could be used for advanced wireless services, so preserving the rights of the ITFS licensees would not stop the development of these services.

Thank you for considering the impact this change would have on the provision and accessibility of higher education to citizens everywhere.

Sincerely,

Alan Scheibmeir, Ph.D.
President

No. of Copies rec'd 0
DATE 03/13/01